

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 25, 2005, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-12, 26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuda et al. Additionally, claims 4 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda et al.

Allowable dependent claim 8 has been amended to include the features of its base claim, claim 1. Claims 1, 10, and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 32-43 are presented for examination. Thus, claims 2-9, 11, 26-28 and 32-43 are pending. Support for the new claims and amendments can be found throughout the specification; no new matter has been introduced.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-12, 26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). However, the Examiner indicated that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable claims. In response, Applicants have amended claim 8 to include the limitations of claim 1 so that claim 8 would be allowable.

Therefore, claim 8 is patentable over Fukuda et al. under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9, 11, 26 and 28, directly or indirectly, each depends from claim 8 correspondingly incorporating its limitations. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, these claims are also patentable over Fukuda et al.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 10, and 12, without prejudice, rendering their rejections moot.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections

In the Office Action, dependent claims 4 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda et al. in view of what the Examiner deems obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. As discussed earlier, claim 8 has been

amended to include the limitations of claim 1, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable. Amended claim 4 and claim 27, directly or indirectly, depend from claim 8 correspondingly incorporating its limitations. Therefore, for at least the same reason, claims 4 and 27 are patentable over Fukuda et al. in view of what the Examiner deems obvious.

New claims 32-57

New claims 32-43 have been added and include features not taught in the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-9, 11, 26-28 and 32-43 are in condition for allowance. Thus, early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: _____

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